

August 24, 2007

Advisory Opinions

On August 23, 2007, the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board met and decided on two new advisory opinions, summarized below. Click on the AO number to read the full text of the opinion.

2007-9, Confidentiality Provisions

The Board concluded that, following the filing of a formal complaint with the OSE, the complainant (the individual who filed the complaint) is prohibited from disclosing: (1) the existence of a formally-filed complaint; (2) any information acquired through interacting with the OSE; and (3) the fact that specific information was conveyed to the OSE. A complainant is *not* prohibited from disclosing the facts that formed the basis of the complaint. For example, a complainant may state to a third party, "Public official X used his office for personal financial gain." The complainant may not state, "I informed the OSE that public official X used his office for personal financial gain."

2007-10, CT Innovations Ex-Officio Board Members in Revolving-Door Scenarios

Long-standing designees of ex-officio members of the Connecticut Innovations (CI) Board are considered to have "served" in the quasi-public agency for purposes of applying the one-year ban under the revolving door provisions in the Code. Such a long-standing designee who has left his or her employing state agency may not, within one year, appear before the CI Board for the purpose of being employed. Similarly, such a designee who remains at his or her employing state agency may not seek employment as CI's Executive Director for one year from the date he or she ceases to be a designee of the Board.

Liaison Input

In July's communication, we asked for feedback regarding the possible elimination of a limited exception to the one-year ban, in General Statutes § 1-84b (b), on representing others before one's former state agency or department. Thank you to all liaisons who took the opportunity to provide thorough and thoughtful comment. At the August 23 Board meeting, the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board commended your valuable input and decided to retain the exception in question.

New Publication!

The OSE is pleased to announce its sixth plain-language guide to the Code of Ethics. In this latest publication, the "***Citizen's Guide to Filing a Complaint***," state employees and members of the public are guided through the process of filing a proper complaint with the OSE. Contents include official complaint criteria, an overview of OSE's jurisdiction, a thorough explanation of confidentiality throughout the process, a step-by-step look at the complaint process from beginning to end, and information on penalties.

[Click here](#) to view or download a copy of this publication.

New Liaison Contact at OSE

I will be out of the office on maternity leave beginning the week of August 27, 2007. Until I return, please contact OSE's General Counsel, Barbara Housen, with all requests for in-person training. Barbara can be reached at: 860-566-4472 x424; Barbara.housen@ct.gov. Please direct all other requests (for legal opinions, educational materials, liaison changes, etc.) to Diane Buxo at: 860-566-4472 x431; diane.buxo@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

Meredith Trimble
Director of Education
Office of State Ethics